

**Bay Area Genealogical Society (BAGS) – General Membership Meeting**  
**Friday, April 30, 2021**  
**Zoom Webinar**

**Call to Order** – Lisa Smith, BAGS President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

**Welcome to Visitors and New Members** – Lisa welcomed new members and visitors to the meeting and reminded visitors that they may attend two meetings prior to joining BAGS.

**Announcements**

- **Poll Results** – Lisa announced that 60 members responded to the recent poll regarding types of venues for future meetings and scheduling preferences for Members Helping Members sessions. According to the poll result most members prefer combination of in-person and virtual meetings; most members did not have a preference for either in-person or virtual meetings for the August Show and Tell meeting; a slim majority did not have a preference for scheduling the current Members Helping Members session either on either Monday evening or Sunday afternoon; and most members would attend the Brick Wall Busters session.
- **Open positions on the Board of Directors** – Lisa encouraged members to consider filling one of the following open Board positions: Member Services and Welcoming committees. Lisa announced that election of officers is scheduled for the August general meeting and that three members are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- **Membership Report** – Lisa announced the number of current members is 136 and that membership is not restricted to the Houston area.
- **Journal** – Lisa announced that Todd Roberts, Journal Editor, has received eight articles which will be published in the next release of the Journal scheduled for May 2021. Lisa encouraged members to submit an article to [journal@txbayareagen.org](mailto:journal@txbayareagen.org). Guidelines for submitting an article are available on the Members Page.
- **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Lisa announced that BAGS will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with an event in December 2021. Lisa encouraged members to send their suggestions and ideas regarding the celebration to [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org).
- **Announcements from the floor** – Lisa informed the audience that if they had an announcement or question to use the chat message function.

**Future Events** – Lisa encouraged members to attend the following BAGS events and to access the various genealogical events that are posted on the slide bar of the BAGS website. Lisa reminded members that all meetings will be held virtually until further notice and that no bus trips to the Clayton Library are scheduled.

- **Members Helping Members:** Designed to provide an avenue for member sharing about recent research discoveries or accomplishments and provide a means to ask for assistance with roadblocks. See website for details.
  - **Online via Zoom #1 – Mondays at 10 AM**  
Moderators: Renee Ball and George Porterfield.
  - **Online via Zoom #2 – Mondays at 7 PM**  
Moderator: Kim Zrubek
  - **NEW! Online via Zoom #3 – 1st Sunday of each month at 2 PM**  
Moderator: Kim Zrubek
  - **In-Person – The Friendswood Family History Center – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM** (through May)  
Open only to BAGS members for research. Bring your own laptop and use their Wi-Fi or use one of their six computers.

Feel free to contact the Board of Directors if you have questions or suggestions about BAGS programs at [info@txbayareagen.org](mailto:info@txbayareagen.org).

**[www.TXBayAreaGen.org](http://www.TXBayAreaGen.org)**

- **German Special Interest Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2 PM**  
Moderator: George Porterfield. See sidebar for details, dates, and times
- **NEW! Brick Wall Busters Special Interest Group – Several times a year**  
Moderator: Kathleen Williams. See sidebar for details, dates, and times

**Other upcoming events** – Lisa announced that various other events are listed on the sidebar of website with registration links:

- **National Genealogical Society:** 2021 Family History Conference – **May 17-21**
- **Family History Fanatics:** Summer virtual conference – **June 5**
- **Southern California Genealogical Society:**  
Genetic Genealogy 2021 – **June 4-5**  
Jamboree 2021 – **June 11-12**
- **Texas State Genealogical Society:** TIGR 2021 – **June 13-18**

**Tonight's Program** – Lisa introduced, Michael L. Strauss, who is the principal owner of Genealogy Research Network and an accredited genealogist since 1995. Mr. Strauss is a native of Pennsylvania and currently resides in Utah. He has been an avid genealogist for forty years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and he is a United States Coast Guard veteran. Mr. Strauss presented the topic, The Road to Independence: Researching your Revolutionary War Ancestors.

**Next General Meeting** – Lisa announced that the next general meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The speaker is Lisa Smith who will present the topic, Genealogy from a Private Investigator's Perspective.

**Adjournment** – Lisa adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.